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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION OF

O'HARA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3641

Divisional Application of  
Appln. No.: 09/091,856

Examiner: Miller, E.

Filed: August 27, 2001

FOR: GASSER COMPOSITION AND  
METHOD OF GASSING

August 27, 2001

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter and consider the following preliminary amendment prior to examination  
of this divisional application.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

*✓* Please cancel claims 2-17, 36, 42, and 43 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please enter new claims 44-62 as set forth below:

- Af*
- rule 1.21*
- 41.44. A method of forming a gassed emulsion explosive composition comprising
- (a) forming a gasser solution comprising a solution of an inorganic nitrite, an ammonium species and optionally an accelerator,
- (b) adding the gasser solution to an emulsion explosive composition having a discontinuous aqueous phase comprising inorganic oxygen releasing salts, a continuous water